

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 05708 240844Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-05 STR-04 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAM-01 /108 W

----- 018730

R 231425Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0905

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD CZ NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN-CZECHOSLOVAKIAN TRADE COOPERATION

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING LOW KEY NEGOTIATIONS IN OSLO FROM 9 TO 12 DEC, NORWAY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA AGREED ON A PROGRAM FOR ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF CZECH DEMANDS FOR SPECIAL PRODUCT PREFERENCES, NO FORMAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. END SUMMARY.

1. CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY JOSEF KELLER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY; WHILE THE NORWEGIAN SIDE WAS LEAD BY PER SKOYEN, MINISTER-COUNSELLOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. AREAS WHERE CONDITIONS WERE FAVORABLE FOR INCREASED COOPERATION INCLUDED THE CHEMICAL, ELECTRONIC, ELECTRO-TECHNICAL, WOODWORKING, AND MACHINERY INDUSTRIES. ACCORDING TO PER VIGOMOSTAD, SECTION CHIEF FOR

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PAGE 02 OSLO 05708 240844Z

EAST EUROPEAN TRADE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, NORWEGIAN

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROGRAM IS A FORMALITY AND SHOULD TAKE PLACE BY 1 JULY 1976.

2. VIGOMOSTAD MENTIONED THAT NORWAY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE PAST BECAUSE OF CZECH INSISTENCE THAT CZECH PRODUCTS COVERED UNDER SUCH AN AGREEMENT RECEIVE SPECIAL PREFERENCES.(NOTE: NORWAY HAS BOTH TRADE AGREEMENTS AND PROTOCOLS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND MOST EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS THE ONLY ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES WITH JUST A TRADE PROTOCOL WITH NORWAY. ALBANIA HAS NO TRADE CONNECTIONS WITH NORWAY). CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS INSISTED FOR EXAMPLE THAT PRODUCTS COVERED UNDER AN AGREEMENT BE EXEMPTED FROM ANY RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON SUCH PRODUCTS AT A FUTURE DATE BY MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS CONFLICT AGAIN, THE NEGOTIATORS SETTLED ON THIS RATHER VAGUE PROGRAM OF COMMON INTEREST IN CERTAIN FIELDS.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE THE STANDARD DIPLOMATIC PRESS RELEASE AFTER THE MEETING, IT WOULD SEEM INCREASED TRADE BETWEEN NORWAY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL CONTINUE TO FACE MAJOR ROADBLOCKS. FOR INSTANCE,VIGOMOSTAD INDICATED THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE NORWEGIAN-CZECHOSLOVAKIAN TRADE PROTOCOL IN MARCH AND APRIL 1976 WILL ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF THE NORWEGIAN DEMAND FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILE PRODUCTS.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: ETRD, CZ, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006